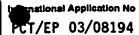
INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT



CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER PC 7 H01813/00 H018 A. CLAS H01B13/14 H01B13/26 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC **B. FIELDS SEARCHED** Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 H01B Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Relevant to claim No. Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Category * 1-17 CH 682 778 A (BETA INSTR CO) Α 15 November 1993 (1993-11-15) column 1, line 62 -column 4, line 6; figure 1 US 5 926 949 A (GARNER MARK A ET AL) 1-17 A 27 July 1999 (1999-07-27) column 3, line 26 -column 12, line 28; figures 1-7 WO 98/52197 A (CAIMI LUIGI ; BALCONI LUCA 18 Α (IT); BAREGGI ALBERTO (IT); BELLI SERGIO) 19 November 1998 (1998-11-19) claims 1-28; figures 1-5 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex. Special categories of cited documents: *T* later document published after the International filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance Invention "E" earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is clied to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. O document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed *&* document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 16/06/2004 4 June 2004 Authorized officer Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax (+31-70) 340-3016 Demolder, J

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT



Patent document cited in search report		Publication date		Patent family member(s)	Publication date
CH 682778	Α	15-11-1993	CH GB	682778 A5 2233123 A ,B	15-11-1993 02-01-1991
US 5926949	A	27-07-1999	US	6137058 A	24-10-2000
			AU	724140 B2	14-09-2000
			AU	3147997 A	05-01-1998
			AU	3288997 A	05-01-1998
			BR	9709414 A	11-01-2000
			CA	2257123 A1	04-12-1997
			CN EP	1220025 A ,B	16-06-1999
			HK	0939960 A1 1020386 A1	08-09-1999 23-05-2003
			JP	2000512793 T	26-09-2000
			KR	2000312733 T	25-03-2000
			TW	434579 B	16-05-2001
			TW	402724 B	21-08-2000
			WO	9745843 A2	04-12-1997
			WO	9745844 A1	04-12-1997
			US	5959245 A	28-09-1999
WO 9852197	Α	19-11-1998	AP	1121 A	29-11-2002
			AT	220240 T	15-07-2002
			AU	743873 B2	07-02-2002
			AU	8015898 A	08-12-1998
			BG BR	103792 A 9809119 A	31-07-2000 01-08-2000
			CA	2289748 A1	19-11-1998
			CN	1255229 T	31-05-2000
			CZ	9903989 A3	14-06-2000
			DE	69806377 D1	08-08-2002
			DE	69806377 T2	23-01-2003
			DK	981821 T3	21-10-2002
			EA	1727 B1	27-08-2001
			EE	9900489 A	15-06-2000
			EG WO	21959 A 9852197 A1	30-04-2002
			WO EP	9852197 A1 0981821 A1	19-11-1998 01-03-2000
			ES	2178223 T3	16-12-2002
			ĪD	24381 A	13-07-2000
			JP	2002510424 T	02-04-2002
			MA	24545 A1	31-12-1998
			NO	995535 A	12-11-1999
			NZ	337909 A	26-10-2001
			PL	336696 A1	03-07-2000
			PT	981821 T	29-11-2002
			SI SK	981821 T1 152099 A3	31-10-2002 14-08-2000
			TR	9902729 T2	21-03-2000
			TW	405126 B	11-09-2000
			ÜS	2003066675 A1	10-04-2003
			US	6501027 B1	31-12-2002
			ZA	9804027 A	19-01-1999
			HU	0002747 A2	28-12-2000